

HOUSE RESOLUTION 265
By Turner (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mrs. Bessie Goodman on the
occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those persons who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bessie Goodman is one such estimable person who has served with probity for 24 years with the Memphis City School System and most recently at W. Alonzo Locke Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, she will be recognized and honored at a retirement dinner on May 31, 2000 for her tremendous contributions and meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, Bessie Goodman was born in Belzonia, Mississippi to the late Claude and Marie Talbert; she moved to Memphis with her family at a very young age and attended Hamilton Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Goodman graduated from Hamilton High School, and has dedicated her efforts and time to the Memphis City Schools since 1976; and

WHEREAS, she began her exemplary tenure with the Board of Education as a Teacher's Assistant at Longview Elementary School and, in 1980, she was transferred to Bruce Elementary School, where she began her outstanding career as a school secretary; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable woman has served with acumen and alacrity as the financial secretary at several schools including Kansas Elementary, Booker T. Washington High School, and Locke Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Bessie Goodman is an active and important part of the community and her profession, participating in numerous civic organizations; prior to beginning her employment with the city schools, she served on the boards of various committees including the PTA at several schools; and

WHEREAS, she also served with probity as the President of the Principal's Council at both Longview Elementary and Southside High School, and was an active and valued member of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Bessie also lent her support to the 49th Precinct Organization to Elect Russell B. Saugerman and John Jay Hooker; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her accomplishments and numerous contributions, Mrs. Goodman was the first recipient of the Parent Rotary Award by the Memphis City School System; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to academic excellence, Mrs. Goodman attended Shelby State Community College from 1978-1980, where she majored in Sociology; she continued her education from 1990-1991 at Faith Christian Bible College in Memphis and, in 1994, became licensed as a minister; and

WHEREAS, Bessie Goodman graduated from the Tennessee School of Religion Seminary in 1996 and during that year was ordained an elder; and

WHEREAS, she is an active and valued member of her church and has taken on countless responsibilities in her role as a Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, and as a member of the Leadership Board; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Goodman also contributes her time and numerous talents to the Regional Medical Center, where she volunteers and ministers to the sick and critically ill; and

WHEREAS, Bessie Goodman exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, she is the proud and loving mother of five daughters, Rhonda, Carolyn, Adrienne, Sandra and Tracey, two sons, Prentis, Jr. and Stacey; and the devoted grandmother of five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, her motto is displayed throughout her life's work: "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest," Joshua 1:9 BKJV; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Mrs. Goodman has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the respect and admiration of her peers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we extend to Mrs. Bessie Goodman our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.